

## APPENDIX G

### Classification of Complaints

1. **Civilian-Initiated (CI) Complaints** initiated by a civilian alleging misconduct on the part of a member of the San José Police Department; these Formal complaints allege a serious violation of Department policy or a violation of law by an officer.
2. **Department-Initiated (DI) Complaints** allege a serious violation of Department policy or a violation of law by an officer; these Formal complaints are initiated by the Office of the Chief.
3. **Informal (IN) Complaints** involve allegations of minor transgressions on the part of a subject officer<sup>1</sup> which may be handled informally by bringing the matter to the attention of the officer's chain of command at the complainant's request.<sup>2</sup> This is typically the Rude Conduct complaint. However, if the complainant feels that such conduct was in his or her opinion egregious that a Formal (CI or DI) complaint is warranted, the Professional Standards and Conduct Unit is then obligated to investigate this complaint as such. The complainant has ultimate control as to whether to treat the complaint as Formal or Informal.
4. **Procedural (PR) Complaints** are defined in two separate portions:
  - (a) The first portion includes the following: "After the initial investigation by the Intake Officer, the Department determines the subject officer acted reasonably and within Department policy and procedure given the specific circumstances and facts of the incident and that despite the allegation of misconduct, there is no factual basis to support the allegation." At the end of the investigation, the assigned finding will be "Within Department Policy."
  - (b) The second portion of the definition includes: "The allegation is a dispute of fact case wherein there is no independent information, evidence or witnesses available to support the complaint and there exists another judicial entity which is available to process the concerns of the complainant." A finding of "No Misconduct Determined" will be assigned to the dispute of fact cases.

For example, a person files a complaint alleging an Unlawful Search, where the complainant states that the police entered his or her home and conducted a search. After a preliminary investigation, the Professional Standards and Conduct officer discovers that the complainant is on parole and has a search clause. The case will be closed with a finding of "No Misconduct."
5. **Policy (PO) Complaints** pertain to an established policy, properly employed by a Department member, which the complainant understands but believes is inappropriate or not valid. These complaints do not focus on the conduct of the officer but on the policy or law with which the complainant disagrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject officer refers to the officer of whom the complaint is about.

<sup>2</sup> San José Police Department, *Internal Affairs Unit Guideline*, page 3.